

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : N. WANT, et al.  
Serial Number : Not Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
For : FLUID-RECOVERY SYSTEM WITH INTEGRALLY  
MOLDED COMPONENTS

Group Art Unit : 3736  
Examiner : P. Wingood  
Paper Number :

Docket Number : ATA-232CN

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

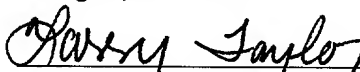
Date of Deposit: January 4, 2001

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I hereby certify that this 37 CFR 1.53(b) request and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 and addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Larry Taylor

Name of Person Mailing Paper



Signature of Person Mailing Paper

Dear Sir:

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced application, entry of the below amendments and consideration of the remarks provided are respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following new claims 64-73:

64. A fluid recovery system for collecting fluid from a patient, comprising  
a housing having a top surface and a collection chamber for collecting a volume  
of fluid from said patient; and

a latching connector formed of at least a connecting element and a mating  
connecting element;

wherein said connecting element is integrally molded to said top surface of said  
housing and said mating connecting element is suitable for connection with a tube.

65. The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded connecting  
element is a female portion of said latching connector and is configured to receive said  
mating connecting element.

66. The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded connecting  
element is a male portion of said latching connector and is configured to receive said  
mating connecting element.

67. The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded connecting  
element extends above said top surface of said housing so that said integrally molded  
connecting element is conveniently accessible.

68. The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein connection and disconnection of said  
integrally molded connecting element can be performed with one hand.

69. A fluid recovery system for collecting fluid from a patient, comprising;  
a housing having a top surface and a collection chamber for collecting a volume of said fluid from said patient; and  
a handle coupled to said top surface and raised above other components on said top surface a sufficient distance to avoid unwanted interference by said other components, said handle suitable for carrying the fluid recovery system and having a length that enables two people to simultaneously hold said handle.
70. The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is integrally molded with said housing.
71. The fluid recovery system of claim 70, wherein said length of said handle is about 5 inches.
72. The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is sized, dimensioned, and fabricated in a manner sufficient to provide protection to said other components against falling objects.
73. The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is approximately centered in a front-to-back position and a lateral position relative to said housing, such that said fluid recovery system is balanced when fluid has been collected and said fluid recovery system is lifted.

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

### REMARKS

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested and is believed appropriate under 37 C.F.R §1.115

Upon entry of this paper, no claims have been amended, claim 1 has been canceled in addition to claims 2-63 having been previously canceled in the Transmittal of this Continuation Application. Claims 64-73 have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 64-73 are presently pending in this application. Support for the foregoing amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, figures, and claims, as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of any changes made to the Specification and/or Claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

Should there be any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the application, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 4, 2002

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

*IN THE CLAIMS*

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 64-73 have been added as new claims as follows:

64. (New) A fluid recovery system for collecting fluid from a patient, comprising  
a housing having a top surface and a collection chamber for collecting a volume  
of fluid from said patient; and  
a latching connector formed of at least a connecting element and a mating  
connecting element;  
wherein said connecting element is integrally molded to said top surface of said  
housing and configured to receive said mating connecting element.
65. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded  
connecting element is a female portion of said latching connector.
66. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded  
connecting element is a male portion of said latching connector.
67. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein said integrally molded  
connecting element extends above said top surface of said housing so that said integrally  
molded connecting element is conveniently accessible.
68. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 64, wherein connection and disconnection  
of said integrally molded connecting element can be performed with one hand.

69. (New) A fluid recovery system for collecting fluid from a patient, comprising;  
a housing having a top surface and a collection chamber for collecting a volume of said fluid from said patient; and  
a handle coupled to said top surface and raised above other components on said top surface, said handle suitable for carrying the fluid recovery system and having a length that enables two people to simultaneously hold said handle.
70. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is integrally molded with said housing.
71. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 70, wherein said length of said handle is about 5 inches.
72. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is sized, dimensioned, and fabricated in a manner sufficient to provide protection to said other components against falling objects.
73. (New) The fluid recovery system of claim 69, wherein said handle is approximately centered in a front-to-back position and a lateral position relative to said housing, such that said fluid recovery system is balanced when fluid has been collected and said fluid recovery system is lifted.